

Please add claim 9, as follows:

--9. The method of claim 3, wherein a length of the virtual spread code corresponds to a length of a symbol having the maximum spread factor. --

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 9 are pending in the application, with claims 1 to 8 having been amended, as shown above, to attend to minor informalities. Claims 1 and 8 are the independent claims.

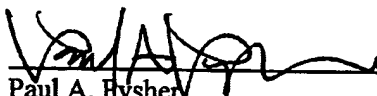
Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are respectfully requested. The claims, without brackets and underlines, are shown in the attached Appendix.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below.

No fee is believed to be due for this Preliminary Amendment. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 19, 2001


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